

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 AID-05

USSS-00 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /096 W  
----- 048925

P R 310757Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORIT 2762

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASFBI CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOGADISCIO 0463

E.O. 11652:HYDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO, FR, FT

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON GUEUR KIDNAPPING

REF: A) MOGADISCIO 0442 B) MOGADISCIO 0450 C) MOGADISCIO 0455 (NOTAL  
)

SUMMARY.

SUSPICION REMAINS IN MOGADISCIO THAT SOMALI GOVT WAS INVOLVED  
IN MARCH 23 KIDNAPPING OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR GUEURY, ALTHOUGH  
EVIDENCE IS WHOLLY CIRCUMSTANTIAL. MANY BELIEVE THAT GSDR WISHED  
DRAW ATTENTION TO AGENCY OF SOMALI INTERNAL PRESSURES FOR DJIBOUTI  
LIBERATION CAUSE, WHICH HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY IGNORED BY ARABS AND  
AFRICANS ALIKE. WHOEVER FABRICATED PLOT, HOWEVER, SERIOUSLY  
MISCALCULATED REACTION, PARTICULARLY BY ARAB AMBASSADORS HERE, WHO  
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RUSHED TO GOF'S SUPPORT BECAUSE OF THEIR CONCERN FOR FRANCO-ARAB

FRIENDSHIP, LEAVING GSDR AND SIAD HOLDING BAG. ALSO CERTAIN THAT CONFUSION OF LAST FEW DAYS OF GUEURY'S DETENTION WAS MOST CERTAINLY RESULT OF SOMALI ARROGANCE AND BUNGLING RATHER THAN PDRY INDECISIVENESS. GUEURY AFFAIR HAS PROBABLY DAMAGED SOMALIA'S REPUTATION AND DAMPENED ENTHUSIASM FOR TFAI DECOLONIZATION AS WELL, AT LEAST IN GSDR'S ABILITY TO MUSTER OUTSIDE DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

1. SUSPICION LINGERS IN MOGADISCIO THAT GSDR WAS INVOLVED IN KIDNAPPING OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR GUEURY BY SOMALI COAST LIBERATION FRONT (SCLF). MOST BELIEVE THAT ABDUCTION OF GUEURY WAS DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO URGENT PRESSURES FOR TFAI DECOLONIZATION

, WHICH ARABS AND AFRICANS ALIKE HAVE CONSISTENTLY IGNORED, DESPITE DECOLONIZATION RHETORIC. FYI SAME THREE SCLF OFFICIALS WHO SNATCHED GUEURY MARCH 23 TOURED ARAB MISSIONS HERE DURING PREVIOUS WEEKS ATTEMPTING TO MOBILIZE ARAB SUPPORT. THEY GOT NO RPT NO ENCOURAGEMENT. END FYI. DESPITE GSDR INACTIVITY ON OGADEN FRONT, BOTH SIAD AND FONMIN ARTEH HAVE LOBBIED ACTIVELY IN ARAB AND AFRICAN CIRCLES DURING 74/75 FOR MOVEMENT ON TFAI, PARTICULARLY SINCE RECENT FRENCH MILITARY BUILDUP AS PRELIMINARY TO SUEZ OPENING. THEY'VE ALSO ATTACKED PARIS FOR REPORTEDLY ENCOURAGING ALI AREF TO LOBBY FOR ARAB SUPPORT IN REGION EITHER FOR STATUS QUO OR EVENTUAL INDEPENDENT AREF-LED GOVT. ARABS HAVE THUS FAR BEEN DEAF TO GSDR APPEALS. ARAB AMBASSADORS HEV BELIEVE THEIR CAPITALS SKEPTICAL IS TO BENEFITS OF FRENCH WITHDRAWAL, PARTICULARLY POSSIBILITY -- HOWEVER REMOTE -- OF ADVANCE OF SOVIET INFLUENCE UNDER SOMALI FLAG INTO BAB EL MANDEB AND ALONG WESTERN LITTORAL OF RED SEA.

2. EVIDENCE AS TO EXTENT OF SOMALI COMPLICITY WITH SCLF IS ENTIRELY CIRCUMSTANTIAL, BEGINNING WITH FACT THAT SCLF IS ENTIRELY AN INSTRUMENT OF SOMALI POLICY. ON NIGHT OF ABDUCTION, THEY HAD GUNS, WHICH THEY DON'T POSSESS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT. MOREOVER, ABDUCTION WAS GIVEN SENSATIONAL PUBLICITY IN MOGADISCIO: DAILY PRESS COVERAGE WAS SPLASHED OVER FRONT PAGES; TWO EXTRA EDITIONS OF SONNA BULLETIN WERE ISSUED; AND RADIO MOGADISCIO KEPT LISTENERS FULL INFORMED. TO SAY LEAST, THESE WERE EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES FOR A CONTROLLED PRESS DEALING WITH AN INCIDENT WHICH WAS SAID TO QTE EMBARRASS UNQTE SOMALI GOVT.

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3. ADDITIONAL SUSPICIONS HAVE BEEN AROUSED BY SOMALI INSISTENCE BZD PDRY AS SAFE HAVEN. THERE WERE NUMEROUS PROBLEMS WITH PDRY, WHICH SOMALI GOVT FAILED TO ANTICIPATE AND WHICH WERE PART OF LARGER PATTERN OF MISCALCULATION. ALTHOUGH PDRY SECURITY AGENTS FINALLY TOOK CUSTODY OF SCLF KIDNAPPERS IN ADEN ON MARCH 28, PDRY COLLABORATION VERY NEARLY WENT AWRY AND WAS ONLY SAVED BY LAST MINUTE APPEAL BY SIAD TO PDRY PRESIDENT. PDRY COLLABORATION WAS IMPORTANT, SINCE TWO COUNTRIES SECURITY SERVICES COOPERATE UNDER

AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY REACHED UNDER SOVIET AUSPICES LAST YEAR.

4. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT PDRY WAS GRUDGING COLLABORATOR AND THAT ITS EARLIER INDECISIVENESS ON SANCTUARY QUESTION WAS LARGELY RESULT OF SOMALI ARROGANCE AND BUNGLING. PDRY GOVERNMENT MADE IT CRYSTAL CLEAR QUITE EARLY TO BOTH PARIS AND MOGADISCIO THAT IT WOULD ONLY PROVIDE SANCTUARY FOR SCLF KIDNAPPERS IF BOTH CAPITALS MADE PUBLIC THEIR APPEALS TO PDRY TO TAKE THESE MEASURES TO SAVE GUEURY'S LIFE. SINCE WEST GERMAN ANARCHISTS ATTEMPTED FIND SANCTUARY IN ADEN EARLIER THIS MONTH, PDRY HAS REPORTEDLY ADOPTED NEW POLICY OF NOT RPT NOT PROVIDING SANCTUARY FOR OIRROISTS ANBIENTIRE GOVERNINL COUNCIL MUST RULE ON ANY EXCEPTION TO THAT POLICY. FRENCH HONORED REQUEST BUT GSDR IGNORED I, DESPITE FACT THAT PDRY AMBASSADOR REPEATEDLY TOLD FONHN THAT ADEN WOULD NOT RPT NOT PROVIDE SAFE-HAVEN UNLESS TERMS MET.

5KRVOMALI GOVT. BELIEVE IT COULD FINESSE PDRY COLLABORATION AND PDRY AMBASSADOR TO MOGADISCIOCTAS NOT INFORMED OF DEPARTURE OF GUEURY PLANE FOR ADEN ON MARCH 27 UNTIL HOUR LATER (MOGADISCIO 0442). HE WAS THEN TOLD TO URGE PDRY TO ACCEPT GUEURY AND HOSTAGES BUT HE FAILED. HOUS LATER, HE WAS TOLD TO TELL PDRY GOVT. THAT SOMALI PLANE WITH GUEURY ABOARD WAS APPROACHING ADEN, WAS RUNNING SHORT OF FUEL AND MIGHT CRASH UNLESS LANDING RIGHTS GRANTE. PDRY CALLED SOMALI BLUFF AND TOLD ITS AMBASSADOR THAT AIRPORT RADAR HAD NOT RPT NOT PICKED UP SOMALI PLANE AND UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES COULD IT LAND. GSDR RECALLED PLANE, WHICH RETURNED TO BOSASO (MOGADISCIO 0450).

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 AID-05

USSS-00 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /096 W

----- 051957

P R 310757Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2763

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOGADISCIO 0463

6. AT 2300 HRS MARCH 27, SIAD SUMMONED IRAQI AMBASSADOR AND TOLD HIM HE WAS NOW DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT GUEURY'S SAFETY AND MATTER GETTING OUT OF HAND. HE COMPLAINED THAT PDRY HAD LET HIM DOWN AND THAT ALTERNATIVE SITE HAD TO BE FOUND. HE ASKED AMBASSADOR TO AGAIN REQUEST BAGHDAD TO PROVIDE SANCTUARY. IRAQI ENVOY DID NOT RPT NOT TELL SIAD THAT GSDR FAILURE TO HONOR PDRY'S CONDITIONS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR BREAKDOWN (IRAQI AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN MEETING WITH ARAB AMBASSADORS AT TIME OF HIS SUMMONING BY SIAD TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE SITES).

7. BEFORE IRAQI ENVOY COULD SEND TELEX, HE RECEIVED CALL FROM NATIONAL SECURITY SERVICE CHIEF (NSS) TELLING HIM TO DELAY REQUEST. SIAD EVIDENTLY THEN MADE FINAL APPEAL BY TELEPHONE TO PDRY PRESIDENT AND PROMISED TO HONOR CONDITIONS. NSS CHIEF SUBSEQUENTLY PHONED PDRY AMBASSADOR TO TELL HIM SIAD'S APPEAL TO PDRY WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PUBLISHED IN MORNING PRESS, AND ADEN WOULD BE TRANSIT POINT. NSS CHIEF SULEIMAN MAY HAVE FELT MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE WITH SCLF KIDNAPPERS IN PDRY HANDS RATHER THAN IN IRAQ, WHOSE PRESIDENT HAD APPEALED TO SIAD TO RESOLVE MATTER IN INTERESTS OF FRANCO-ARAB RELATIONS. GUEURY WAS RELEASED IN ADEN NEXT EVENING (MOGADISCIO 0457)

8. WHILE NEGOTIATIONS WERE GOING ON IN MOGADISCIO, SIAD HAD BRIEFLY VISITED RIYAD TO ATTEND OBSEQUIES FOR FAISAL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE RECEIVED COMMENTS FROM ARAB LEADERS REGARDING GUEURY AFFAIR AND HEARD THEIR CONCERN AS TO ITS EFFECTS UPON FRENCH-ARAB RELATIONS. ARAB AMBASSADORS HERE QUICKLY ORGANIZED THEMSELVES ON GUEURY'S AND GOF'S BEHALF, AN INITIATIVE WHICH GSDR VIEWED WITH BOTH DISTASTE AND SUSPICION.

9. WE RESERVE JUDGMENT ON GSDR COMPLICITY. IT IS DAMAGING ENOUGH THAT DIPLOMATS HERE - AND PROBABLY ABROAD AS WELL - BELIEVE SOMALI GOVT. WAS ACCOMPLICE TO KIDNAPPING. WHOEVER WAS RESPONSIBLE CLEARLY MISCALCULATED ARAB REACTION HERE AND LOCAL ARAB AMBASSADORS CONCERN FOR ARAB-FRANCO FRIENDSHIP, WHICH IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT ISSUE TO THEM THAN DJIBOUTI DECOLONIZATION, FOR WHICH THEY CAN MUSTER

LITTLE OR NO SYMPATHY AT ALL.  
HAMRICK

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchandr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Subject:** BACKGROUND ON GUEUR KIDNAPPING  
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**To:** STATE  
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